



Runge Conservation Nature Center

Habitat Happenings

May and June 2004

"Capt. Lewis went out to the wood & found many curious Plants & Shrubs..." William Clark wrote this 200 years ago on May 31 near the point where Auxvasse Creek now flows into the Missouri River. He also notes, "Several rats of Considerable Size was Caught..." These animals were Eastern wood rats. They were the first of many new creatures found by the Corps of Discovery. In total they described 122 animals and 178 plants previously not known in the United States!

You may still see some of these plants and animals in our state today. Eastern wood rats still live here, as do Osage orange and cottonwood trees, coyotes, deer, and channel and blue catfish.

Part of their findings, though, are now gone. On June 24, 1804 Clark said he "observed a great number of parrot queets this evening." The Carolina parakeet was the only parrot native to Missouri, and it is now extinct. We are fortunate to have the Lewis and Clark records about once abundant parakeets, wolves, and elk in Missouri.

We honor Lewis and Clark for the rich, natural history they left for us. Check out our Corps of Discovery programs in the upcoming months and celebrate the 200th anniversary of their journey - naturally.

Kay Kasiske-Volunteer Naturalist



Lewis and Clark

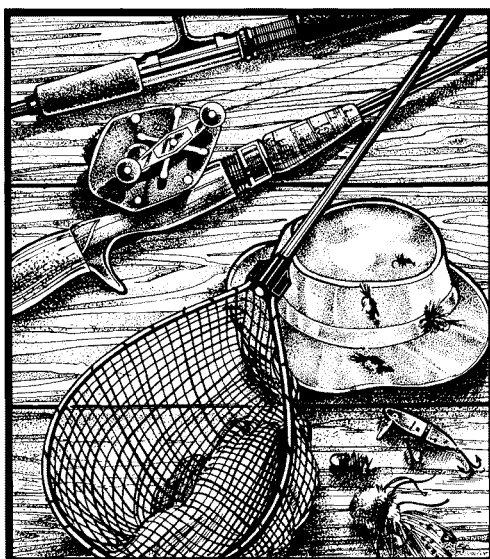


Volunteer News

On April 1, eighteen new Volunteer Naturalists graduated from their training at Runge Conservation Nature Center, and are now helping us serve you with our special events, exhibits, programs, and activities at Runge. Congratulations, Class of 2004!



Front Row: Trana Madsen, Hillary Perez, Jim L. Smith, Shelly Perez, Derek Bommel, Robert Bresee, Marlo Bocking
Middle Row: Leslie Seifert, Jeannie Douglas, Alane Dubbert, James Schindler, Tim Bommel
Back Row: Glenna Schindler, Jamie Hubert, David Dubbert, Jake Von Gunten, Jared Fallon, Sarah Whanger



Free Fishing

June 12 & 13

Get out and FISH!

No fishing permit is required on these two days. Experience the joy of fishing.

Exhibits

May - MDC Poster Display

Stop by the nature center and view 16 conservation posters which are available for free on a first-come, first-served basis.

June - Junior Duck Stamp

We are proud to display the winning artwork from Missouri's Junior Duck Stamp Contest. Visit the nature center anytime during May and June to see the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and Honorable Mention entries.

Webelos Backpacks!



Leaders can now check out the Naturalist and Forester backpack. This pack includes tree identification games, tree cookies, skins, feathers, and a lot more. This pack is available through reservations with Andrea. Call today! 573/526-5544.

Nature Shop News

May/June featured item...

FIDDLES AND FORESTS CD



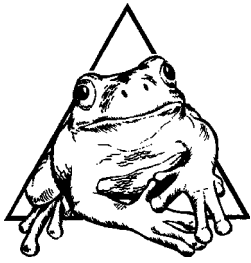
20% off

Heritage card discount does not apply.

This CD brings to life the Scots-Irish and their trek from the lowlands of Scotland to the shores of America, and on to Missouri Ozark country. With more than 20 songs, this folk-music CD is a spirited mix of traditional Celtic jigs, foot-stomping Ozark bluegrass, and narrative enhanced by nature sounds. Discounted price is \$8.00 plus tax.

Runge Conservation Nature Center is located in western Jefferson City. From U.S. 50, exit on Highway 179. Travel north for 1/4 mile to the Nature Center entrance on the left. The Nature Center is open Monday through Saturday 8:00AM to 5:00PM and Noon to 5:00PM on Sundays. Closed New Year's Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. No admission fee. 573/526-5544 FAX: 573/526-4496 www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/runge

Habitat Happenings



Conservation Kids' Club

Welcome to Conservation Kids' Club, a fun club created for kids 6 through 13 years old who love to explore nature and learn about wildlife. Come to our May meeting and we'll sign you up.

Wacky Wetlands

Tuesday, May 25

6:00 - 7:30 PM Pollywogs (Ages 6 through 8) and Bullfrogs (Ages 9 through 13) combine for the evening.

Check out our pond to explore the wonders of the deep. Become a turtle or a crayfish as we act out a day in the wetlands with our treasure chest full of costumes. Then put on your lab coats as we enter the microscopic world of water. Wet and wacky! Dress for getting muddy - old shoes and clothes.

Lewis and Clark Survivor

Tuesday, June 15

6:00 - 7:30PM Pollywogs (Ages 6 through 8) and Bullfrogs (Ages 9 through 13) combine for this adventure.

Do you have what it takes to survive the journey? Can you portage a canoe, catch a catfish, track down a bison and make a map? We will form "Corps of Discovery" teams and tackle these simulated skills. Learn more about Lewis and Clark and the real life struggles they faced on their famous journey.

Hey Parents! While big brother/sister attends Conservation Kids' Club, your preschooler (3 through 5 years of age) can be involved in a program at the same time. A preschool program will be available for siblings of Conservation Kids' Club members on Tuesday, May 25, 6:00-7:00PM and Tuesday, June 15, 6:00-7:00PM. Refer to your **Treetop Chatter** newsletter for program descriptions. There are no reservations required.

Lewis and Clark

Test your knowledge!

1. On June 1, 1804, the expedition reached the place now called Clark's Hill. This is where the Missouri and _____ rivers meet. This confluence has moved 7 miles down stream since 1804.)
2. On July 7, 1804, the Corps of Discovery observed and recorded their first new scientific specimen. What animal was it? _____
3. What type of wood, perfect for making bows and previously unknown to science, did Lewis describe and collect samples? _____
4. How many Corps camp sites have been identified in Missouri? _____
5. What landmark known to boatmen did Lewis and Clark encounter near present day Wittenberg, Missouri? _____



The Lewis and Clark Expedition Coloring Book
by Peter F. Copeland

Answers: 1. Osage 2. Eastern wood rat 3. Osage 4. Sixty-three 5. Grand Tower Rock

Habitat Happenings

Corps of Discovery-

It's Not Just About Lewis & Clark

June 26
2pm - 7pm

Come be the Captain of your own Corps of Discovery, and learn some "core" outdoor skills at Runge. Get your hands on some of these activities, and get a feel for what the Corps members did every day. You'll have a chance to tug a rope, shoot a gun, make a "possibles" pouch, and catch a fish. Write with a feather, throw a tomahawk, and find your own way. It's not just about Lewis & Clark—it's about you!

- ❖ Archery
- ❖ Fishing
- ❖ Pellet guns
- ❖ Map & Compass
- ❖ Tomahawk throwing
- ❖ Thematic Games & Activities
- ❖ Live Music
- ❖ Refreshments

No reservations required for this event.

May Events at Runge

REGISTRATION

Call Runge Conservation Nature Center on or after May 1st to register for these free programs (573/526-5544.) If you have to cancel, please call as soon as possible so someone on the waiting list can attend.

No MOre Trash Week May 1-9



Thank you for enhancing the natural beauty of Missouri's outdoors.

2 *Sunday*

Beginning Archery

Time: 1:00-2:30PM

Ages: 8 years and older

"I shoot an arrow into the air, and where it lands..." With a little practice we can help you hit the target. Join us at the nature center for some archery fun. We'll provide the equipment, instructions, and targets. You provide the smiles. Make a point to be there! Reservations required.

7 *Friday*

John Nilsen

Time: 7:00-8:00PM

Ages: All

Contemporary composer and recording artist John Nilsen returns for another solo piano performance. His music, which includes fourteen CDs, is known for its original melodic themes—pieces which touch on the experiences of our lives.

John is currently one of the Northwest's largest selling artists. His latest work, "Across Oregon" made it to #8 on the top 100 radio chart for New Age Reporter. John is known for the intense clarity in which he is able to translate his experiences with travel, family, and the outdoors into music that distinguishes him as an artist. His music inspires us to look more carefully, to feel more deeply, and to celebrate this life of ours. Best for ages 12 and older. Reservations required.



8 *Saturday*

Searching for Wildlife

Time: 2:00-3:00PM

Ages: All (deaf and hard-of-hearing only)



Come join the fun with Naturalist Sheri Medlock from Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center on a search for wildlife! We will be going off into the woods to look for clues and more. This program will guarantee you a great time! Wear sturdy covered shoes and dress for the weather! Program will be presented in sign language only. Reservations required.

9 *Sunday*

Wildflower Workshop for Kids

Time: 2:00-4:00PM

Ages: 6-13 years

Come learn about wildflowers. Learn to recognize them on Runge trails. Learn their value in wild habitats as well as in our gardens. Learn how to transplant them into your gardens at home. Take home a plant for your mother. Reservations required.


15 *Saturday*

Runge Hiking Club

Time: 8:00AM-5:30PM

Ages: 18 years and older

See splendid sights! Burn some calories! Learn about our wondrous state! Come join novice and experienced day hikers alike as we strap on our boots and go! Each month, we'll meet at the nature center, car pool to one of Missouri's choice hiking spots, and hike one or two of the best trails. A volunteer naturalist will lead the hikes and point out highlights as we go.

Established in 1924 to honor Monroe County's native son, **Mark Twain State Park** is the third oldest state park in Missouri. After an orientation at the Mark Twain Birthplace State Historic Site, where the Clemens family belongings and cabin is protected, we'll hit the trail. The **White Oak Trail** (6 miles ) winds around a peninsula of 18,600-acre Mark Twain Lake and is a great trail for lake overlooks, wildflowers, and a chance to spot the striking red-headed woodpecker in the ghost forest coves. Bring your lunch, water, hiking boots or comfortable shoes, and come dressed for the weather. Reservations required.

15 *Saturday*

River Record: Noting Nature with the Corps of Discovery

Time: 2:00-3:00PM

Ages: All (children accompanied by adult)

Join us as we launch a series of programs sketching and writing about the Missouri River. Like Meriwether Lewis, William Clark and members of their corps, our journaling will center on the river, its animals and plants. Meet us on the river (north) side of the State Capitol building near the Fountain of the Centaurs by the memorial of signing the Louisiana Purchase. Together we can create River Records and learn more about Missouri's natural history. Remember - make arrangements for attending this program with Runge, but meet at the Capitol building. Reservations required.

16 *Sunday*

Pond Workshop

Time: 2:00-4:30PM

Ages: 18 years and older

Planning to build a new pond? Have one but would like to improve it? Then this workshop is for you! Pond construction, vegetation control, and fishing quality will be covered in this comprehensive workshop. Reservations required.

20 *Thursday*

Wildlifers—Quilt Block






Time: 10:00-11:30AM, 1:00-2:30PM,

3:30-5:00PM, and 6:00-7:30PM

Ages: 50 years and older

Did you know that there are more than a dozen species of sparrows? Join us this month and learn more about a special sparrow in Missouri. Reservations required.

Trail rating system for the trails advertised for the Runge Hiking Club.

-  -Easiest trail—flat terrain with no obstructions (like the Katy Trail)
-  -Slight inclines and/or few obstructions (gravel, few rocks)
-  -Moderate inclines and/or occasional rocks or roots
-  -Occasional significant inclines and/or rocks or roots
-  -Most difficult—significant inclines, obstructions, and/or loose rocks

For the Little Ones

Babes In The Woods

Birth through 2 years of age

Thursday, May 20 – 10:00AM

Tuesday, May 25 – 10:00AM

Saturday, May 29 – 10:00AM

Little Acorns

3 through 6 years of age

Saturday, May 8 – 10:00AM

Tuesday, May 11 – 10:00AM

Wednesday, May 12 – 6:00PM

Thursday, May 13 – 2:00PM

Friday, May 21 – 10:00AM

Sensory Safari

Let's go outside! We will take a "safari" at the nature center this month and let the wonders of spring touch us through all of our senses. Reservations required.

22 *Saturday*

Young Adults - Ready, Aim...Fire!

Time: 1:00-2:30PM

Ages: 12-14 years

Have you ever shot a bow and arrow? Learn what it takes to shoot like an archery pro! Targets will be set, and we'll even play archery games. Equipment will be provided for you. Wear sturdy shoes and bring a water bottle. Reservations required.

22 *Saturday*

Runge Reading Guild

Time: 2:30-4:00PM

Ages: 18 years and older

It's Raining Frogs and Fishes - Four Seasons by Jerry Dennis and drawings by Glenn Wolff. This is wonderful writing about the seasons with delightful drawings for our reading and viewing pleasure. We will gather to share and discuss this book with seasons. (June 19 - Summer; September 25 - Autumn; and October 23 - Winter.)

"A perfect choice for adults and kids alike who want to discover more about how the world is put together...entertaining and fact-filled." —*Houston Post*. Reservations required.

23 *Sunday*

Along Came a Spider...

Time: 1:00-2:00PM

Ages: All

Spiders are spinners, weavers, and insect eaters. They are itty, bitsy, long-legged, multi-eyed, amazing by adapted arachnids, and they are the focus of this fun and up-close adventure! Reservations required.



A
VIEW
OF
SPRING...

Habitat Happenings

June Events at Runge

REGISTRATION

Call Runge Conservation Nature Center on or after May 1st to register for these free programs (573/526-5544.) If you have to cancel, please call as soon as possible so someone on the waiting list can attend.

5 *Saturday*

Young Adults - Ready, Aim...Fire!

Time: 1:00-2:30PM

Ages: 15-18 years

Have you ever shot a bow and arrow? Learn what it takes to shoot like an archery pro! Targets will be set, and we'll even play archery games. Equipment will be provided for you. Wear sturdy shoes and bring a water bottle. Reservations required.

6 *Sunday*

Dragons in the Sky!

Time: 1:00-2:00PM

Ages: All

Darting here and there, they look like helicopters always on the go! Dragonflies are amazing insects. Spending part of their life underwater, these creatures magically transform into brilliance in flight. Join our naturalist to explore the beauty and enchantment of these magnificent creatures. Reservations required.

6 *Sunday*

River Record: Noting Nature with the Corps of Discovery

Time: 2:00-3:00PM

Ages: All (children accompanied by adult)

Join us as we continue a new series of programs sketching and writing about the Missouri River. Like Meriwether Lewis, William Clark and members of their corps, our journaling will center on the river, its animals and plants. Meet with us on the river (north) side of the State Capitol building near the Fountain of the Centaurs by the memorial of signing the Louisiana Purchase. Together we can create River Records and learn more of Missouri's natural history. Remember - make arrangements for attending this program with Runge, but meet at the Capitol building. Reservations required.

10 *Thursday*

Gone Fishin'!

Time: 10:00AM-Noon and 6:00-8:00PM

Ages: All (children accompanied by an adult)

Hang up your "Gone Fishin'" sign and join us for some good old-fashion fishin'! We'll

provide poles, tackle, and bait (or bring your own.) This is catch-and-release fishing, and folks ages 16-65 will need a current Missouri fishing license. Meet at the

Conservation Department headquarters, 2901 West Truman Boulevard, and follow the signs to the fishing pond, or meet at Runge and we'll walk over. Reservations required

12 *Saturday*

Beginning Archery

Time: 10:00-11:30AM and 1:00-2:30PM

Ages: 8 years and older

"I shoot an arrow into the air, and where it lands..."

With a little practice we can help you hit the target.

Join us at the nature center for some archery fun.

We'll provide the equipment, instructions, and targets.

You provide the smiles. Make a point to be there!

Reservations required.

Habitat Happenings

13 *Sunday*

Big River Bike and Boat

Time: Noon-4:00PM

Ages: All

By land and by water, let's explore the Missouri River corridor! Bike along the Katy Trail from North Jefferson City to Hartsburg access and then catch a boat ride at the Hartsburg access to explore sandbars and a nearby Lewis and Clark site.

When you arrive at the North Jefferson City Trailhead, pick up your reserved boat tickets from our orientation table. **Boat departures: 1:00PM, 2:00PM, and 3:00PM. (Please specify time when making reservation.)** Bike west at your own pace and be sure to stop by our "Discovery Stations" along the trail to Hartsburg. When you arrive in Hartsburg, signs will direct you to the Hartsburg Access on the Missouri River. From there, you can park your bikes safely and catch a ride on a super-john boat, designed for big river exploration. We'll journey about 2 miles to Bull Rock, a site noted by Lewis and Clark in their journals. We'll also land on a wide sand bar to do a little bit of our own exploring.

After your boat ride, you're set to ride home at your own pace. Come experience the Mighty Missouri!

*This trip involves a 24-mile round-trip bicycle ride.

Reservations required.

17 *Thursday*

Wildlifers—Quilt Block

Time: 10:00-11:30AM, 1:00-2:30PM,

3:30-5:00PM, and 6:00-7:30PM

Ages: 50 and older

The Black-capped chickadee will soon be a frequent visitor to your bird feeder. Learn more about this Missouri bird when you make a quilt block this month. Reservations required.

17 *Thursday*

River Escape

Time: 6:00-9:00PM

Ages: 18 years and older

Experience the adventure of floating the Missouri River in a canoe! Meet the "Big River" up close and personal with our seven-mile trip downriver. We'll watch for wildlife and make a stop at the mouth of the Moreau River which was noted in the Lewis and Clark journals.

Our journey begins at the Noren Access by the Jefferson City bridge. Canoes will be provided by Hilkemeyer's Canoe Rental for \$30 each. Paddles and lifejackets are included with the canoe. You will be shuttled back to Noren Access following the trip. Our flotilla will be accompanied by a power boat. You will need wading shoes and bring along a hat, water, and snack.


This trip is for experienced canoeists only. You should have successfully floated several smaller rivers before joining us on this trip. Additional information will be provided when you make your reservation. Come explore the Missouri! Reservations required.

19 *Saturday*

Runge Hiking Club

Time: 8:00AM-5:30PM

Ages: 18 years and older

The Lincoln Hills are a band of uplifted limestone hills about 15 miles wide and 60 miles long. What's unusual about them is that they are surrounded by the glaciated plains of north Missouri. We'll hike hill after hill, each separated by a deep "V", on the **Lone Spring Trail** (6 miles ) at **Cuivre River State Park**. We'll find pawpaw, bloodroot, ginger, and golden seal on the shaded, moist forest floor. Bring your lunch, water, hiking boots or comfortable shoes, and come dressed for the weather. Reservations required.



National Trails Day June 5

For the Little Ones

Babes In The Woods

Birth through 2 years of age

Friday, June 4 – 10:00AM

Thursday, June 10 – 10:00AM

Tuesday, June 15 – 10:00AM

Little Acorns

3 through 6 years of age

Thursday, June 3 – 10:00AM

Tuesday, June 8 – 10:00AM

Friday, June 11 – 10:00AM

Saturday, June 12 – 10:00AM

Wednesday, June 16 – 6:00PM

Friday, June 18 – 1:00PM

Prairie Days

In the heat of summer, the prairies are alive with flowers, insects, birds, and other wild animals. It may be hot out there, but we will learn a lot about the "cool" things on the prairie this month! Reservations required.

19 *Saturday*

Big River Bike and Boat

Time: 9:00AM-2:00PM

Ages: All

Refer to June 13 for description. Boat departures: 10:00AM, 11:00AM, Noon, and 1:00PM. Please specify time when making your reservation.

19 *Saturday*

Runge Reading Guild

Time: 2:30-4:00PM

Ages: 18 years and older

It's Raining Frogs and Fishes - Four Seasons by Jerry Dennis and drawings by Glenn Wolff. This is wonderful writing about the seasons with delightful drawings for our reading and viewing pleasure. We will gather to share and discuss this book with seasons. (September 25 - Autumn and October 23 - Winter.) *"A great book for nature lovers...It's a delightful mix of hard science and folklore—which mix more often than you might think."* —Lansing State Journal. Reservations required.

20 *Sunday*

Birds, Birds, and more Birds!

Time: 2:00-3:00PM

Ages: All (deaf and hard-of-hearing only)

Birding is known as a popular recreational activity. We will cover different species of birds and talk about how they are different from each other. We will go out and search for birds with binoculars! This program will be presented in sign language only. Reservations required.

22 *Tuesday*

Basic Map and Compass

Time: 6:00-7:30PM

Ages: All

Did Lewis and Clark get lost while walking through the woods? Join us and learn the basics of using a compass and topographic map. Reservations required.

23 *Wednesday*

Basic Map and Compass

Time: 6:00-7:30PM

Ages: All

Refer to June 22 for description.

26 *Saturday*

Corps of Discovery—It's Not Just About Lewis & Clark

Time: 2:00-7:00PM

Ages: All

Join us in the fun! Refer to back page of newsletter for additional information. No reservations required.